

Tri-County Environmental Health Department**Anaconda/Deer Lodge - Granite - Powell Counties**

Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Courthouse

800 South Main Street

Anaconda, Montana 59711

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JAN 16 2013

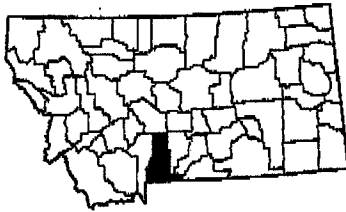
Facsimile Cover Sheet

Date: 1/16/2013
To: MT House of Representatives
Fax # 406-444-4825
From: Tri-County Environmental Health
Fax # 406-563-4001
Remarks: Attn: Representative Mike Cuffe

10-10-72

DATE

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JAN 16 2013**Park County Environmental Health**

414 E. Callender

Livingston, MT 59047

406-222-4145 Fax 406-222-4109

January 16, 2013

Representative Mike Cuffe, Chair
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, Montana 59620-0400

RE: HB2 - Base Funding for the DEQ Subdivision Section

Dear Mr. Chair and committee members;
I have been a sanitarian for about eleven years, and have contracted to do sanitation review in subdivisions since 2006. When the housing market shut down, I watched a robust and useful state program get absolutely gutted. Sanitation in subdivisions is an extremely important process for protecting public health and environmental quality. It takes years to learn the laws and their implementation. Gutting a program simply because there has been a temporary down-turn in fees generated, is short-sighted by the state government. Giving this vital program a base funding will sustain this program in slower times, give staff time to update rules as necessary, and maintain the knowledge and expertise we rely on at the local level.

Please support this vital program by supporting HB2.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodbury, R.S., M.P.H.
Director of Environmental Health
Park & Sweet Grass Counties

PONDERA COUNTY
SANITARIAN

JAN 16 2013

CORRINE A ROSE, RS
311 S. Virginia St., Suite 1
CONRAD, MT 59425
crose@3rivers.net
(406) 271-3247

Representative Mike Cuffe, Chair

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, Montana 59620-0400
RE: HB2 – Base Funding for the DEQ Subdivision Section

January 16, 2013

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CUFFE, Chair
And

Committee Members of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Transportation

RE: HB2, DEQ Subdivisions Bureau Funding

Greetings,

I am the Sanitarian for Teton and Pondera Counties and I support the full and consistent funding of the Subdivision Bureau. A good portion of my job is working with the folks on subdivisions and septic systems. While my two counties have not experienced the rapid growth other areas have seen, we have consistently seen new parcels created and new homes built. Most of our land divisions are minor subdivisions and usually, the land owner is the one preparing the application. I do my best to assist the individual through this process and I have always relied on the Subdivision Bureau folks to help us prepare complete and accurate submittals.

Teton and Pondera Counties submit all subdivisions that are less than 20 acres and require review to DEQ, Subdivision Bureau. Because this bureau also deals with septic systems, I have also been able to call on them for help and technical expertise on new or replacement septic systems that I am permitting on at the county level.

With the potential for oil and gas development on the East Slope of the Rocky Mountains, I have already taken advantage of DEQ personnel, including the Subdivision Bureau. They traveled to both counties to visit with our residents about impacts of oil and gas development. Both public meetings were very well received. If we do see any type of a boom, I will rely heavily on the DEQ staff for guidance and assistance.

Please consider this my support to provide the Subdivision Bureau with funding that will assure base program needs can be maintained. I believe that stable funding is especially vital to our lesser-populated rural counties here in Montana. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Corrine A Rose, RS

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Anaconda, Montana 59711
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Representative Mike Cuffe, Chair
Joint Appropriations Subcommittee
on Natural Resources and Transportation
Montana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 200400
Helena, Montana 59620-0400

RE: HB2 – Base Funding for the DEQ Subdivision Section

Dear Representative Cuffe:

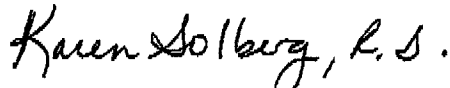
As Registered Sanitarians in Southwestern Montana we would like to support the proposed changes to funding the Subdivision Program at MDEQ. This office depends on the support and expertise of the Subdivision Program staff in reviewing the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act requirements. The Subdivision Program is currently 100% fee funded. During periods of slow subdivision activity as in the past few years, the incoming fee revenue is insufficient to fund the program adequately and expert staff is laid off. Expertise is continually needed in this department to support county programs. We need assurance that reviews can be performed in a timely manner and the basic program administrative needs are met. In order to assure base program needs can be accomplished even during period of reduced subdivision activity, a stable funding source is needed that is independent of subdivision review fees. Having adequate funding also helps to assure there is staff to deal with necessary rule revisions, questions on subdivision applications, legal opinions, etc. A stronger base staff means that when economic conditions improve and more subdivision activity occurs, there will be trained staff to process applications and generally support our requests for services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chad Lanes, RS, Tri-County Sanitarian



Karen Solberg, RS, Tri-County Assistant Sanitarian